MAR 1 3 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO TO CONDUCT AN OUTREACH PROGRAM, PERFORM A NEEDS ASSESSMENT, AND ESTABLISH A HIGHER EDUCATION LEARNING CENTER IN THE DISTRICT OF PUNA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

WHEREAS, rural areas in the State are in need of higher education learning centers that can help improve employment and entrepreneurial activities in those areas; and

WHEREAS, the district of Puna on the island of Hawaii is a prime location for establishing a higher education learning center, and it could identify educational and training needs in the district, design a business incubator approach to support job growth in the area, and focus on outreach to increase agriculture production and processed products for local markets utilizing emerging engineering programs; and

WHEREAS, if successful, the higher education learning center in Puna can serve as a model for other rural areas in the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the House of Representatives concurring, that the University of Hawaii at Hilo is requested to establish a higher education learning center, as broadly described above, in the district of Puna on the island of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at Hilo is encouraged to work with the United States Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center in establishing a higher education learning center in Puna; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture is requested to support and assist the University of Hawaii at

Hilo in establishing a higher education learning center in Puna; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at Hilo is requested to establish an outreach program under the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management to conduct an outreach program and perform a needs assessment for the higher education learning center, including an assessment of existing educational resources and facilities that can be used to provide educational and training options in Puna; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at Hilo is requested to report findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation and funding needs, resulting from the outreach program and needs assessment to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the United States Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; President of the University of Hawaii System; Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii; Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo; and Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

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